

## *No. 11 – Greater Monterey County Integrated Regional Water Management Region*

### Region Acceptance Process Summary

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#### **General Description of Region**

The Greater Monterey County Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Region covers much of Monterey County, large parts of which did not belong to any IRWM Region until this year. The Greater Monterey County Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) expands the Salinas Valley IRWM Plan and other existing separate planning efforts to develop an IRWM Plan for a larger portion of the Central Coast.

The Greater Monterey County RWMG has drafted a Memorandum of Understanding and all members are anticipated to be signatories later this year. During the interview, the RWMG representatives presented land use and watershed differences between the Greater Monterey County and adjacent IRWM Regions to explain their need to be a separate IRWM Region. The RWMG representatives also discussed specific water management concerns which include: seawater intrusion and nitrate contamination that plague groundwater supply, and stormwater runoff impacts within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Near shore coastal areas have elevated levels of nitrates, sediments, persistent pesticides, metals, bacteria, pathogens, detergents, and oils, all of which originate from non-point sources. Protecting steelhead trout in the Region's streams and the persistent threat of wildfires are two other environmental factors impacting water management in the Greater Monterey County IRWM Region.

#### **Interview Conclusions- Approved**

The Greater Monterey County RWMG discussed efforts to coordinate and cooperate with adjacent IRWM Regions on water management concerns and interregional issues, which is documented in a July 9, 2009 letter of cooperation from the Monterey County Water Resources Agency and the San Luis Obispo County Sustainable Water Resources Agency.